(c) and (d) Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2008 provides for direct dealing with Original Equipment Manufacturers(OEMs) or Authorised Vendors or Government sponsored Export Agencies (applicable in case of countries where domestic laws do not permit direct export by OEMs). Further, the procedure, *inter-alia*, incorporate provisions for penalties being imposed if any seller engages any individual or firm, whether Indian or foreign whatsoever, to intercede, facilitate or in any way recommend to the Government of India or any of its functionaries, whether officially or unofficially, to the award of the Contract to the Seller.

Replacement of ageing cheetah helicopters

1411. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is still in the process of replacing almost 190 ageing Cheetah helicopters, many of which are at the fag end of their life-span;

(b) whether validation trials relating to on-going procurement bids have been conducted;

(c) whether the post-validation trials, the procurement manual stipulates a round of winter trials before a final decision is taken have been conducted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The request for proposal (RFP) for replacing the Cheetah helicopters has been issued. Further action as per the existing procedures including the Defence Procurement Procedure 2008 is underway.

Detention of Korean merchant ship by Indian Navy

†1412. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy had detained Korean Merchant Ship going to Karachi from Colombo in Kerala in October, 2009;

(b) whether the ship had entered Indian territorial waters without permission; and

(c) whether search has been undertaken in the ship and the details of the items recovered therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A North Korean ship, MV Hyang Ro Bong proceeding from Colombo to Bin Qasim, Pakistan was located anchored in the Indian territorial waters on 2nd Oct 2009 to carry out emergency repairs. A Joint investigation team of officers of Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Customs and State Police investigated the reasons for its anchoring without information to Indian authorities. No suspicious activities or items were observed onboard and the ship was allowed to continue its passage.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.